



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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December 16, 2011

✓ Beverly Grossman Palmer, Treasurer
Valley Democrats for Change (1305598)

REDACTED

Warning Letter Re: FPPC Case No. 111035; Valley Democrats for Change

Dear Ms. Palmer:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act"),¹ found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to an audit report referred to us by the Franchise Tax Board. The audit covered the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. A copy of the audit report is enclosed for your information.

The audit found that supplemental independent expenditure reports (SIERs) were not filed for one period and that accrued expenses were not timely disclosed in three periods. Section 84203.5 of the Act requires SIERs to be filed when a committee has made independent expenditures totaling \$1,000 or more in a calendar year to support or oppose a candidate or a measure. Section 82025 defines an expenditure as being made on the date payment is made or the date consideration is received, whichever is earlier.

The findings in the audit report constitute violations of the Act. The supplemental independent expenditures were disclosed on late independent expenditure reports, however, and the accrued expenses were reported when paid. Therefore we have decided to close this case with a warning letter.

This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code Sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in Sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the FPPC. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact Program Specialist William Marland with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely

REDACTED

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Gary S. Winuk
Chief, Enforcement Division

Enclosure